United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1267
11 November 1992

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Leaders of Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities in Cyprus adjourn recent round of talks; agree to continue negotiations on Set of Ideas in early March 1993; Leader of Turkish Cypriot community, Rauf Denktash, offers assessment of talks.

+ Security Council yesterday agreed to increase strength of United Nations Protection Force by 75 military observers to implement "no-fly zone" over Bosnia and Herzegovina.

+ Three United Nations senior officials meet with leader of UNITA, Jonas Savimbi, for exchange of views on how to re-launch peace process in Angola.

+ Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia request that issue of refugees and displaced people in former Yugoslavia be taken up in General Assembly's plenary session, in addition to it being considered in the Third Committee.

+ Morocco cites violations of humanitarian law in Western Sahara.

+ Goodwill Mission dispatched by the Secretary-General to Moscow, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan holds consultations with various parties to conflict; Head of Goodwill Mission to Solomon Islands meets with relevant Government officials.

* * *

The leaders of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities in Cyprus, adjourning their talks today, have agreed to continue negotiations aimed at concluding the work on the Set of Ideas in early March 1993. The talks, which were initiated by the Secretary-General on 18 June, resumed most recently at Headquarters on 28 October.

According to a statement by the Secretary-General's Spokesman, the most recent meetings focused primarily on the issues of displaced persons, constitutional aspects of the Federation and territorial adjustments.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

The Secretary-General is due to report shortly to the Security Council on the latest discussions.

Following the suspension of the talks, the leader of the Turkish Cypriot community, H. E. Rauf Denktash, referred the press at Headquarters today to the position paper issued by the Secretariat showing that his delegation had accepted 91 out of the 100 paragraphs put forward in the Set of Ideas for an overall framework agreement. He denied the "widespread propaganda" that the talks were not proceeding in the right direction because the Turkish Cypriot side had not accepted all the elements contained in the Set of Ideas.

He indicated that the Turkish Cypriots had believed that there was agreement on all but a few remaining subjects and that it would be possible "to concentrate on those important issues". But now, due to the position taken by the Greek Cypriots, it appeared that everything remained open to discussion, he indicated.

He said, however, that the talks had been "most fruitful", in the sense that this was the first time the Turkish Cypriot side had been able "to see the Greek Cypriot position, nebulous as it is, on paper". He called his contact with Mr. Vassiliou "cordial" and said that their discussions represented "a good beginning".

* * *

The Security Council last night unanimously approved an increase in the strength of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) by 75 military observers to enable the Force to implement the ban on military flights in the airspace of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Council had voted on 9 October to ban all such flights, except for United Nations humanitarian flights and others in support of United Nations operation.

Under the resolution adopted last night, the Council reiterated its determination to consider urgently, in the case of violations, further measures necessary to enforce the ban. It also called on all parties and others concerned, including all Governments operating aircraft in the area, to cooperate fully with UNPROFOR.

The Council welcomed the current advance deployment of military observers of UNPROFOR and the European Community Monitoring Mission at airfields in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro).

The representative of China, while voting in favour of the resolution, said he did not support the use of force in implementing the ban on military flights.

* * *

Three United Nations senior officials meet yesterday with the leader of National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), Jonas Savimbi,

(more)

for an exchange of views on the present critical situation in Angola, a United Nations spokesman said today.

The Secretary-General's Special Representative for Angola, Margaret Anstee, Under-Secretary-General for Peace-Keeping Operations, Marrack Goulding, and the Chief Military Observer of United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II), flew to central Angola yesterday to meet with Mr. Savimbi for a discussion on how to relaunch the peace process and what action the United Nations should take to that end.

* * *

Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia have jointly asked that the General Assembly consider in plenary "as soon as practicable" the issue of refugees and displaced persons in former Yugoslavia, in order to alleviate "the extreme suffering" of civilians in that region. The request, made in a letter dated 9 November and signed by the Permanent Representatives of the two countries to the United Nations, followed the Assembly's decision to allocate that agenda item for discussion to the Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural).

The two Ambassadors, citing the Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, said their request was based on the global nature of the problem of refugees and displaced persons. They pointed out that 400,000 people in Bosnia and Herzegovina were in imminent danger of starvation, freezing and death; approximately 750,000 refugees and displaced persons in Croatia needed urgent help and assistance; over 3 million people had been displaced, and destruction had occured on a "massive scale".

The two countries said their request did not seek the removal of the issue in its entirety from the proceedings of the Third Committee; on the contrary, the Committee should "remain seized" of that matter. But since this was "the most difficult humanitarian problem in Europe since the end of the Second World War", the part of the debate relating to former Yugoslavia should be reallocated to the plenary.

* * *

Citing violations of international humanitarian law in Western Sahara, Ibrahim Hakim, Ambassador-at-large of Morocco, told a press conference at Headquarters today that he had met with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Sadako Ogata, in order to hand over to her a document on the mistreatment of refugees in the Territory and the "misuse" of humanitarian aid to refugee camps.

Mr. Hakim indicated that he had delivered a copy of the document to the President of the Security Council, as well as to the Secretary-General whom he had met personally. He expressed the hope that the questions raised in the document would be answered in the next few days.

* * *

(more)

A United Nations official announced today that the Goodwill Mission dispatched by the Secretary-General to Moscow, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan at the beginning of the month had held a series of consultations with various parties to the conflict as well as with officials from regional governments. The mission is headed by Raymond Sommereyns, Director in the Department of Political affairs.

In another announcement today, the official said that the Head of the Goodwill Mission to the Solomon Islands, Mian Qadrud-Din, had completed his visit to that country yesterday, after having met with all the relevant Government officials. Mr Qadrud-Din was scheduled to return to Tokyo over the weekend and to inform the Secretary-General about his visit shortly thereafter.

* *** *